

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 CU-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 ACDA-19 COME-00 /159 W
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R 061802Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6660

USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: ANTONIONI REPLY TO PEOPLE'S DAILY ATTACK

REF: PEKING 217 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO FRENCH PRESS, ANTONIONI'S REPLY TO THE PRC ATTACK ON HIS FILM WAS IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT PUBLISHED IN UNITA TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, ANTOIONI SAID HE HAD NOT READ THE FULL PRC TEXT AND WOULD ACCEPT WITH GREAT INTEREST A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE CRITICISM AND A DIRECT DISCUSSION WITH THE AUTHORS OF THE ARTICLE.

2. LE MONDE QUOTED WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN IMPERFECT TRANSLATION FROM THE ITALIAN: "AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IT IS A QUESTION OF A VERY VIOLENT AND NOT VERY CLEAR ATTACK. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT INSTEAD OF THAT, THERE ARE PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT CULTURAL CONTEXTS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD HAVE INTERPRETED A FACT OR A FRAME AS TENDER OR MOVING AND THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES COULD, ON THE CONTRARY, HAVE
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JUDGED IT LACKING IN RESPECT AND UNREVOLUTIONARY; OR IT

IS POSSIBLE THAT THE UNDERSTANDING AND LIBERAL GROUP WHICH HELPED US AT EACH PHASE OF THE WORK AND APPROVED THE RESULT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A MORE INTOLERANT, HARDER GROUP. THE FILM, IN THIS CASE WOULD BE THE PRETEXT FOR A STRUGGLE WHICH CONCEALS THE SIGNS OF A CHANGE IN THE INTERIOR OF THE POWER STRUCTURES."

3. ANTONIONI SAID THAT THE FILM HAD BEEN IN CIRCULATION FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND PRC EMBASSY AND NCNA REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME HAD SEEN IT. THE FILM HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN HONG KONG AND PARIS TO CHINESE OFFICIALS. "NOT ONLY DID WE NOT GET ANY PROTESTS BEFORE THAT OF TODAY, ON THE CONTRARY, WE GOT CONGRATULATIONS AND CORDIAL HINTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE LATER INVITATIONS."

4. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, PAESE SERA REPORTED THE RUMOR THAT THE PRC AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF NCA HAD BEEN RECALLED TO CHINA " PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THEIR FAVORABLE JUDGEMENT OF THE ANTONIONI FILM."

IRWIN

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